

REMARKS

Claims 1-9 are pending. Claims 1 and 4-6 have been amended. Claims 8 and 9 have been added. No new matter has been introduced. Reexamination and reconsideration of the present application are respectfully requested.

In the October 10, 2006 Office Action, the Examiner objected to claims 3 and 4 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but indicated that these claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicant thanks the Examiner for so indicating.

The Examiner rejected claims 1, 2, and 5-7 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Tagawa, U.S. Patent No. 6,947,728 (hereinafter "Tagawa"). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejections.

Applicant has enclosed herewith a certified English translation of the Priority Document JP 2001-158993 to perfect the claim for priority in accordance with 37 C. F. R. § 1.451.

Applicant respectfully submits that the Tagawa reference has a filing date of October 11, 2001, which is after the May 28, 2001 priority date of the above-identified application. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102 (e) should be withdrawn.

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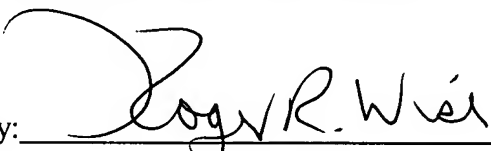
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In view of the foregoing amendment and remarks, Applicants believe that the application is in condition for allowance, and a favorable action is respectfully requested. If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned attorney at the Los Angeles telephone number (213) 488-7100 to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance should the examiner believe that such a telephone conference would advance prosecution of the application.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: April 9, 2007

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